

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Carrie Bell, July 1, 1873, with transcript

3rd copy Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his parents and Carrie. 35 West Newton Street, Boston, July 1st, 1873. Dear Papa, Mama and Carrie:

As I have scarcely had any sound sleep for many days past on account of imaginary noises at night I thought it best to consult Dr. Cotting — who recommends giving up work as soon as possible. He has given me some preparation of Bromide of Ammonia to induce sleep but it has had very little effect as yet.

He seems to think that my mind being so much bent upon the study of noises all day long may perhaps have induced these effects.

If I could only bring little Georgie with me to Canada, I would be content to relinquish everything else and go home “right away.”

It is no labor to teach him as my plan is to let him imbibe instruction through play .

If you could accommodate myself and Georgie (with his nurse, Fredericka, to look after him) and if you approve of the plan let me know at once.

I go to Haverhill next Saturday to make arrangements about George's future. If you look favourably upon the plan please telegraph to me before Saturday afternoon and I can then broach the subject to Mr. and Mrs. Sanders — who would, of course, require a few days preparation.

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I have come to the conclusion that I have not the strength to do all I want to and I have resolved to rest next year and to take 2 no pupils except those connected with the deaf and dumb.

My plan is this — I can have free rooms and board with Mrs. George Sanders of Salem, (George's grandma) in return for instructing him. Mrs. Sanders has been very kind to me and I could not have a more comfortable home than hers. Salem is only a few miles from Boston and I could come into town every day.

My engagement at the University would only occupy from one to five hours a week dependent upon the number of students. The remuneration also being uncertain. I am guaranteed a minium amount of five dollars per hour. "The School of Oratory" attached to the University is as yet an experiment and Prof. Monroe himself takes the whole pecuniary responsibility.

I can have the use of a room at the University at almost a nominal rent as I should not want it till the afternoon, and then for not more than about a couple of hours per day.

I propose to send notices to all the Institutions that I shall form a normal class commencing on such a date, course extending to a certain date. I shall surely make enough to pay for the rent of my room, for my clothes and travelling expenses and I would not seek to do more.

The only question is — what shall I do with my furniture? Shall I sell it or store it for future contingencies.

Please advise me.

No less than three cases of stammering have been sent to me within the past week by doctors who were present at the meeting in 3 the Lowell Institute. I declined all but said that I would inform them of my return to Boston in the fall.

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Much love to all and kind regards to Mr. Coatee and to all friends.

Your loving, Aleck.